



**MICHIGAN SERA COUNCIL
STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

March 15, 2011

Honorable Tom McMillan, Chair
House Oversight, Reform and Ethics Committee
House Office Building
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative McMillan and Members of the House Oversight Committee:

The Michigan State Employee Retirees Association **opposes Senate Concurrent Resolution 9**. SCR 9 would overturn the Michigan Civil Service Commission's decision to extend health care benefits to a classified state employee's adult live-in partner and his or her dependents.

The Office of the State Employer and recognized state employee unions bargained in good faith and agreed that a non-related other eligible individual adult and his or her dependent children living in a state employee's household should be eligible for the health care benefits under the state's health care benefits program. The benefits agreement was approved by the Michigan Civil Service Commission. The Commission also approved the benefit for non-exclusively represented employees. In due course, we expect that the benefit would be provided to those state employee retirees who wish to participate.

Michigan SERA supports the constitutional authority that gives the Civil Service Commission the legal right to set wages, hours and conditions of employment for state classified employees. Further, we support collective bargaining rights for state employee unions. The results of collective bargaining agreements are an agreed upon resolution by both parties (Employees and Employers) that should not be abridged by Legislative action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mary Pollock
Legislative Representative